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THE

# INTERIM

A REPORT OF INTERIM ACTIVITY . . . MONTANA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL . . . HELENA

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PERIODICALS

MAY 1985

VOL. V, NO. 1

This issue begins the fifth volume of the Interim.

The newsletter is designed to provide a centralized source of information on the activities of the Legislature and its agencies. Legislators are the audience we aim to reach. Each member receives a copy of the newsletter. As a courtesy, copies are also sent to other elected officials and department heads of state government. Subscriptions are available to others who ask, but our goal simply is to provide legislative information to the members of the Legislature.

Articles are designed to be short and readable. Sufficient information is provided to indicate what is being done by interim groups and to allow a member to know whether to contact a legislative office for a copy of a full report for additional information.

The newsletter includes a calendar of legislative events for the two months following publication. We find that the members really use these calendars and try to rely upon them. Planning firm meeting dates is difficult, frustrating, and largely out of our control, but the members do appreciate it when it can be done. We will include a disclaimer warning of the ephemeral nature of the announced dates.

The newsletter will be used to inform you of administrative matters of interest, including information on pay, benefits, and insurance.

This is your newsletter. If you have suggestions or comments, please contact Bob Person at the Legislative Council.

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## LEGISLATIVE PUBLICATIONS

### HISTORY AND FINAL STATUS

The publication detailing the history and final status of every bill considered in the 1985 session will be ready for distribution by mid-June.

### INTERIM COMMITTEES

### MAILED NOTICE

By now each legislator should have received a mailing that indicated the studies designated for assignment by the Legislative Council at its May 18 meeting. Enclosed was a form letter to be sent to the appointing authority indicating a desire to serve on a committee. If you haven't received this mailing, be sure to contact the Council right away.

### PRIORITIES

This year, the Council asked that only the top five priorities for study be listed by each member. To analyze overall priorities, several different weighting schemes were employed. In each case, the top six priorities were the same although the exact order varied slightly. Shown below are the priorities ranked according to the weighting scheme using 5 points for top priority down to 1 for 5th priority. The number of responses in each category is also shown. There were 125 responses.

RESOLUTION		FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	FOURTH	FIFTH
1	HJR 52	Vo-Techs	13	21	18	12
2	SJR 31	Lien Laws	17	17	9	7
3	HJR 36	Crops & Wild Animals	22	5	9	8
4	HJR 57	Ag. Problems	17	11	6	7
5	SJR 42	Infrastructure	13	11	7	14
6	HJR 54	Job Training	7	6	11	9
7	HJR 58	Hiring at Will	8	6	5	6
8	HJR 50	Law Enf. Academy	5	6	7	8
9	HJR 40	Grazing Fees	1	8	9	8
10	HJR 55	Sov. Immunity	5	5	6	8
11	SJR 37	Health Boards	2	3	11	7
12	HJR 49	Ins. for Unempl.	5	8	2	2
13	SJR 32	Ed TV	0	6	5	4
14	SJR 33	Building Code	4	3	3	3
15	HJR 48	Judicial Selection	0	4	4	2
16	HJR 44	Juv. Detention	1	2	2	7
17	HJR 45	Fines, Fees, & Forf.	2	0	4	5
18	HJR 22	Youth & Alcohol	1	1	3	2

**COMMITTEES  
DESIGNATED** Based on priorities, available resources, and subject matter, the Council designated study-committees as follows:

1. Issues related to Vocational Training  
HJR 52 Vo-Tech Governance  
HJR 54 Job Training
2. Lien Laws - SJR 31
3. Issues related to Agricultural Problems  
HJR 57 Agricultural Problems  
HJR 36 Wildlife Damage
4. Infrastructure (public works) - SJR 42
5. Location of the Law Enforcement Academy  
HJR 50 (Designated to be studied because a special appropriation was made in HB 928)

**APPOINTMENT  
OF MEMBERS** It is anticipated that members will be appointed to serve by the end of June.

**BUDGETS** The Legislative Council plans to meet July 12 to allocate budgets to each of the interim study committees funded through the HB 500 appropriation of \$49,000.

**SELECT COMMITTEES ON HEALTH INSURANCE FOR  
RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES AND INDIAN AFFAIRS**

**APPOINTMENTS  
TO BE MADE** Appointments are also to be made to the Select Committee on Health Insurance for Retired Public Employees created by HB 270 and to the Select Committee on Indian Affairs created by HB 14. The Speaker of the House, Republican House Leader, President of the Senate, and Senate Minority Leader each will appoint two members to the eight-member retiree health insurance committee. The Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate each will appoint two members to the four-member Indian Affairs Committee. Legislators should be sure to inform the appropriate appointing authorities of their interest in service on these select committees.

**LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

**MEETING** The Legislative Audit Committee will meet June 20 and 21, at 8:30 a.m. in Room 312-3 of the Capitol.

**REPORTS**            The Committee will review financial-compliance audit reports on Eastern Montana College, Montana Historical Society, Department of Health and Environmental Sciences, Western Montana College, Pine Hills School, School for the Deaf and Blind, Flathead Valley Community College, and others.

**REPORTS AVAILABLE**            Copies of all reports are available, upon release by the Legislative Audit Committee, from the Office of the Legislative Auditor, Room 135, State Capitol, Helena, MT, 59620, telephone 444-3122.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE CODE COMMITTEE

**CHAIRMAN SELECTED**            The Administrative Code Committee met on April 3, and elected new officers. Rep. Gary Spaeth was elected Chairman and Sen. H. W. "Swede" Hammond was elected Vice-Chairman. Other members of the committee are Senators Pete Story, Paul Boylan, and Dick Pinsoneault, and Representatives Jim Schultz, Les Kitselman, and Kelly Addy. The Committee considered Issues 21 through 24 of the 1984 MAR and Issues 1 through 4 of the 1985 MAR. The committee also heard a request for an economic impact statement on a Department of Revenue, Liquor Division, rule concerning warehousing of wine and beer.

**JUNE MEETING TBA**            The Committee plans to meet in June, at a time to be announced, to consider emergency rulemaking activities, to determine interim projects, and to review issues of the MAR.

#### REVENUE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

**APRIL 26 MEETING HELD**            The Revenue Oversight Committee got an early start this interim by holding its organizational meeting on April 26, the day following the close of the session. Representative Mel Williams was elected Chairman for the 1985-86 interim, and Senator Bob Brown was elected Vice-Chairman. Breaking somewhat from tradition, the Committee appointed two Revenue Oversight Committee members as liaison to the Coal Tax Oversight Committee. Those two members are Senator Tom Towe, who has been the Revenue Oversight Committee liaison since the Committee has had a liaison, and Representative Gerry Devlin, who is serving his first interim on Revenue Oversight.

**JUNE 7 DATE SET**            The Committee set the second meeting of the interim for 9:00 a.m., June 7, in Room 104 of the

Capitol. The tentative agenda calls for review and adoption of a study outline for Senate Joint Resolution 14, the adoption of a meeting schedule for the interim, review of a Department of Revenue rule regarding an issue associated with the distribution of beer, and the Department's regular reports on litigation, reappraisal, and related matters.

#### LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

##### MEETING JUNE 21

The Legislative Finance Committee will meet on June 21 in Room 104 of the Capitol. The two major agenda items are: (1) the 1987 Biennium Appropriations Report; and (2) the staff interim work plan. Legislators not at the meeting will be mailed an appropriation report in late June.

Near the end of the session, legislators were surveyed to determine what fiscal concerns had the highest priority. The responses given will influence how the Legislative Finance Committee sets the interim work plan. If you did not complete the survey or have thought of other fiscal concerns, please send them to the Legislative Fiscal Analyst's office promptly and they will be included as part of the potential work areas.

##### VEHICLE FEE FISCAL EFFECT

In Senate Bill 142, the inflation adjustment on vehicle fees was stricken. The Code Commissioner indicates that the new 61-3-533, MCA, will be codified with the inflation adjustment removed as indicated in Senate Bill 142. A vehicle less than four years of age and under 2,850 pounds will be assessed a fee of \$83, of which \$7 will be used for district courts as per Senate Bill 142, \$6 will be used for the local government block grant as per House Bill 870, and \$70 will be distributed as vehicle fees are currently. Had the inflation adjustment remained in effect, the \$70 would have been \$82 in fiscal 1986 and \$86 in 1987. The total fiscal impact of excluding the inflationary adjustment determined by LFA staff calculation is approximately \$9.5 million in the biennium, with \$1.9 million being absorbed in the foundation program and \$7.6 million affecting local governments.

COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE (AND INTERNATIONAL)  
COOPERATION

On May 18, the Legislative Council appointed members to NCSL, CSG, and the Montana-Western Canadian Provinces Boundary Advisory Committee. The Council will be soliciting interest among legislators to be designated as a delegate to the Five-State Conference, which is explained below.

NCSL

NCSL APPOINTMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Agriculture and Food Policy

Sen. Allen Kolstad, Delegate  
Rep. Gay Holliday, Alternate

Taxation, Trade and Economic Development

Sen. Bill Norman, Delegate  
Sen. Pat Regan, Alternate

Natural Resources and Environment

Rep. Hal Harper, Delegate  
Sen. George McCallum, Alternate

Education and Labor

Sen. John D. Lynch, Delegate  
Rep. William Menahan, Alternate

Commerce, Labor and Economic Development

Sen. M. K. Daniels, Delegate  
Rep. Les Kitselman, Alternate

Federal Budget

Rep. John Vincent, Delegate  
Sen. Judy Jacobson, Alternate

Fiscal Affairs and Oversight

Sen. Paul F. Boylan, Delegate  
Rep. Dan Harrington, Alternate  
Judy Rippingale, Fiscal Analyst, Staff Delegate

Transportation and Communication

Sen. Pat M. Goodover, Delegate  
Rep. Kerry Keyser, Alternate

Health and Human Services

Sen. Stan Stephens, Delegate  
Rep. Calvin Winslow, Alternate

Legislative Organization and Management

Diana S. Dowling, Executive Director,  
Legislative Council, Staff Delegate

Executive Committee

Rep. Robert L. Marks, Delegate  
Rep. Rex Manuel, Alternate

Legislative Service Agency/Research DirectorsAdvisory Committee

Diana S. Dowling, Council Executive Director  
Robert B. Person, Research Director

Water Policy

Rep. Rex Manuel, Delegate  
Sen. Jack Galt, Delegate  
Sen. Larry Stimatz, Alternate

Environment and Hazardous Materials

Rep. Earl C. Lory, Delegate  
Sen. Chet Blaylock, Alternate

Revenue and Taxation

Rep. Jack Ramirez, Delegate  
Sen. James Shaw, Alternate

Economic Development and International Trade

Rep. Norm Wallin, Delegate  
Sen. Gary Alkestad, Alternate

Land and Energy

Rep. Tom Asay, Delegate  
Sen. Jack Haffey, Delegate  
Rep. Mike Kadas, Alternate

Health and Education

Rep. Ralph Eudaily, Delegate  
Sen. Bob Brown, Alternate

CSG Governing Board

Rep. Robert L. Marks, Delegate

MONTANA-WESTERN CANADIAN PROVINCE BOUNDARY  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Council appointed the following:

Rep. Dennis Iverson              Sen. Swede Hammond  
Rep. Mary Ellen Connelly        Sen. Dick Manning

FIVE-STATE  
CONFERENCE

The Five-State Conference has been scheduled October 2-4 in Lincoln, Nebraska. The preliminary agenda includes discussions on state ownership of water rights, problems facing agriculture today,

control and regulation of financial institutions, trends in economic development within the states, and the future of education. The budget will support appointment of eight delegates to this conference. If you would be interested in attending, please contact the Legislative Council office or a Council member.

## LEGISLATIVE INTERIM CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
JUNE						
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 Rev.Oversight Comm. 9am - rm.104	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 FLAG DAY	15
16	17 FATHER'S DAY	18	19	20	21 Leg. Audit Comm. 8:30am-rm.312	22 Leg. Finance Comm. 9am - rm.104 Leg. Audit Comm. rm. 312
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
						30

\*ALL MEETINGS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

LEGISLATIVE INTERIM CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
JULY	JULY	JULY	JULY	JULY	JULY	JULY
1	2	3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12 Leg. Council 10am-1pm, 132	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 Capt. Bldg. & Planning rm. 108-10am	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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